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SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS
GILA AND SALT RIVER DRAINAGES IN ARIZONA

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

February 15, 1945

Precipitation: Since the first of the month the precipitation throughout Arizona has been relatively light, especially over the headwaters of the Salt and Gila rivers. In the McNary area light snow flurries have occurred but not in sufficient amount to add materially to the runoff from this section of the State. At Springerville, so far this month, the weather has been unusually mild.

Snow Cover: Because of continued melting temperatures throughout the mountain areas the snow cover has been very greatly dissipated. During the first two weeks of this month the snow depth on the several snow courses, as listed below, has been reduced on the average nearly 8 inches. Should moderate and light precipitation prevail during the whole month of February, the snow on most of the courses will be entirely gone. At present on the extreme high mountain peaks, Prescott and Springerville areas, the depth is estimated to be 1.5 to 3 feet deep.

Reservoir Storage: Reservoir storage on the Salt and Gila during the first half of the month was about 33,000 acre-feet. In the principal reservoirs on the Salt River the total storage is now 907,700. On the first of the month it was 880,000. In San Carlos the storage is now 105,700 and at the first of the month it was 100,000. Lake Pleasant has filled from 4,000 to 7,600 during this period. There is now in Lake Mead a total of 22,400,000 acre-feet of water. A year ago at this time, the Salt River reservoirs held 1,040,000 acre-feet, San Carlos 280,000, about 25 percent less than a year ago.

Water Supply Outlook: Generally the stream flow is now somewhat below normal, however, soil moisture appears to be fair to good in most localities. Mild weather has so far this month, depleted much of the snow at the lower elevations, and even though the water content of the present snow cover on the courses is about three times that of a year ago, the outlook for any substantial runoff from snow is now not so favorable as that of February first.

Summary of Snow Surveys, February 15, 1945
(Arizona and New Mexico Courses)

Snow Course	Location	Drainage	Snow Depth			Water Content		
			Inches			Inches		
			February 15			February 15		
			1943	1944	1945	1943	1944	1945
Frisco Divide	6 m. S. Luna	Blue R.	8.1	3.9	11.2	2.3	1.0	3.1
State Line	5 m. W. Luna	"	11.6	6.7	11.8	3.4	1.6	4.2
Nutriso	4 m. N. Alpine	San Fran. R.	7.1	1.9	5.4	2.3	0.7	1.6
Beaver Head	11m.SW.Alpine	Castle Cr.	14.0	1.1	13.9	4.5	0.3	4.6
Coronado Trail	4 m.S.Alpine	Coleman Cr.	13.1	3.9	9.8	3.8	1.2	3.4
McNary	3 m. NW.McNary	Salt R.	14.4	3.4	4.2	4.3	0.7	2.1
Forestdale	5 m.SW.Showlow	" "	3.3	0.0	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.1
Milk Ranch	4m.W.McNary	" "	10.3	0.0	0.3	2.6	0.0	0.2
Taylor Creek	13m.NW.Chloride	Gila River	0.8	0.0	--	0.5	0.0	--
Average			10.2	2.6	7.1	3.0	0.7	2.4

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